

The KidsRights Index 2024

Jordan scores 98th
on global ranking for Children's Rights.



JORDAN

OVERALL SCORE
RANK: 98
SCORE: 0,683

LIFE
RANK: 73
SCORE: 0,835

HEALTH
RANK: 84
SCORE: 0,913

EDUCATION
RANK: 147
SCORE: 0,577

PROTECTION
RANK: 54
SCORE: 0,946

CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: 124
SCORE: 0,357

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index is the only annual global ranking on how countries worldwide are adhering to children’s rights. Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Index synthesizes the performance records of states on the most crucial aspects of children’s lives for which comparable data is available. In addition, the Index charts how states are faring in mobilizing the enabling environment for children’s rights that the CRC requires them to have. The five domains that jointly make up the Index are:

- 1. Right to Life**
- 2. Right to Health**
- 3. Right to Education**
- 4. Right to Protection**
- 5. Enabling Environment for Child Rights**

The KidsRights Index ranks countries on each of these five domains which in turn generate a comprehensive overall ranking. The content of the Index is a sound basis for making concrete recommendations on how the children’s rights record of specific countries could be improved.

SOURCES OF THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index pools data from three reputable sources: quantitative data published and regularly updated by **UNICEF** (<https://data.unicef.org>) and **UNDP** (www.hdr.undp.org/data)¹, and qualitative data published by the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** (www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crc/pages/crcindex.aspx) in the detailed individual country reports (the so-called Concluding Observations) that it adopts for all states that are parties to the CRC. The KidsRights Index aims to make the data more accessible to a broader audience, in an effort to stimulate dialogue about children’s rights. Since the United States of America is the only state in the world that is not yet a party to the CRC, there is no material for scoring the country on domain 5 and thus it cannot be included in the KidsRights Index.

DOMAIN 5: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILD RIGHTS

Domain 5, the ‘Enabling Environment for Child Rights’, is an important and unique domain of the KidsRights Index. It reveals the extent to which countries have operationalized the general principles of the CRC (*non-discrimination; best interests of the child; respect for the views of the child/participation*) and the extent to which there is a basic ‘infrastructure’ for making and implementing child rights policy (in the form of *enabling national legislation; mobilization of the ‘best available’ budget; collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and state-civil society cooperation for child rights*). The scores on domain 5 are derived from the Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. These Concluding Observations (COs) finish off the state reporting procedure under the CRC and represent the Committee’s views on the level of realization of children’s rights in a particular country.

¹ The data for the KidsRights Index 2023 was downloaded from the listed UNICEF and UNDP sources in January 2023. In addition, the latest available Concluding Observations for each country were used.

Domain 5 - 'Child Rights Environment' - is based on the Concluding Observations adopted by the CRC Committee. The Committee's assessment of the country performance on the earlier mentioned 7 indicators that make up domain 5 is used to generate scores on a scale between 1 and 3. The actual score assigned to each sub-indicator is exclusively based on the language used by the Committee in the document. The resulting final scores are standardized.

KidsRights Index Scoring System:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Score 1 'bad' | = only negative remarks |
| Score 2 'average' | = negative and positive remarks |
| Score 3 'good' | = only positive remarks |
| NA | = not addressed |

| Color | Meaning |
|--------|-----------------|
| Red | Negative change |
| Orange | Stayed the same |
| Green | Positive change |

DOMAIN 5: JORDAN

| | Non-discrimination | Best interests of the child | Respect for the views of the child | Enabling legislation | Best available budget / Resources | Collection and analysis of disaggregated data | State-civil society cooperation for child rights |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Jordan 2014 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | NA |
| Jordan 2023 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | NA |

Jordan's standing in the KidsRights Index (KRI12) has experienced a decline, with the country now ranked 98th and scoring 0.683, down from 87th with a score of 0.728 in KRI11, marking a drop of 11 positions. The Enabling Environment category has also seen a significant decrease, falling 23 ranks to 124th with a score of 0.357. Among the seven assessed indicators, the areas of 'Best Interest of the Child' and 'Respect for the Views of the Child' have shown deterioration, while 'Non-Discrimination' and 'Best Available Budget' have seen improvements. The remaining three indicators have maintained their previous standings. This mixed performance highlights areas of both progress and challenges in Jordan's efforts to uphold children's rights.

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS 2023 - JORDAN

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights appreciates the prohibition of discrimination within the Children's Rights Act but remains deeply concerned about ongoing issues.

Recommendations

- Implement legal prohibitions against discrimination on all grounds outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ensuring no child is left unprotected.
- Review and amend any legislation that classifies children in a discriminatory manner.
- Focus efforts on eliminating persistent discrimination against girls and children from disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all children.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

KidsRights reiterates its previous recommendations and urges Jordan to take a decisive action to uphold the Best Interest of the Child principle.

Recommendations

- Ensure that the principle of the Bis is uniformly applied across all programs and in all legislative, administrative, and judicial proceedings, including sharia and juvenile courts. This should cover issues related to parental custody, alternative care, asylum, and child justice.
- Provide comprehensive guidance and training to all relevant persons in authority, including administrative authorities, sharia judges, and traditional and religious leaders, to effectively determine and prioritise the Bis in every decision-making process.

ON RESPECT FOR THE VIEWS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 1):

KidsRights is concerned that views of children are not systematically considered in decisions affecting them.

Recommendations

- Mandate that all children have the right to express their views freely in all decisions affecting them, especially in courts and relevant administrative and judicial proceedings.
- Enhance the active and meaningful participation of all children, particularly those in disadvantaged situations such as girls and CWDs.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 2):

KidsRights applauds the adoption of the Children Rights Act and the formation of a national working committee comprising relevant ministries and agencies.

Recommendations

- Guarantee robust implementation of the Children's Rights Act by swiftly adopting necessary regulations and directives, allocating adequate resources for its enactment, and enhancing the skills of professionals working with and for children through targeted capacity-building initiatives.
- Establish systematic child-rights impact assessment procedures for all legislation and policies affecting children to ensure their interests are consistently prioritised and protected.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 3):

KidsRights recognises the challenges faced by Jordan as a host of a significant number of refugee and asylum-seekers, noting the strain on its resources and institutional frameworks, which impacts the implementation of the CRC.

Recommendations:

- Appreciates Jordan's efforts in managing the demands on human and financial resources and the institutional challenges posed by hosting a large refugee and asylum-seeker population.

ON COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DISAGGREGATED DATA (SCORE 1):

KidsRights underscores the importance of comprehensive data management for effective implementation Of CRC.

Recommendations:

- Implement a centralised data-collection system covering all aspects of the CRC and its Optional Protocols, with data disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin, nationality, and socioeconomic background.
- Strengthen the collection and analysis of data specifically for CWDs, those in alternative care, asylum-seeking, refugee, and migrant children, as well as children in street situations.
- Ensure that collected data are shared among relevant state agencies, ministries, professional groups, and civil society organisations.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION (NA)

Recommendations:

- Increase the involvement of civil society organisations, children's groups, and child human rights defenders in all aspects of children's rights.
- Facilitate more collaborative platforms where these stakeholders can contribute meaningfully to decision-making processes related to children's rights.



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